

Claims 1 & 6, as amended

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1. An information card comprising a visible photograph of a card owner displayed upon the card and a memory that stores information data, the information data comprising one of image data and acoustic data;

B<sup>1</sup> wherein the information data contains inherent data that is embedded in the information data according to steganographic information hiding;

wherein the inherent data comprises data that authenticates a legitimacy of a card owner of the information card; and

wherein one of the information data and the inherent data comprises a reproduction of the visible photograph of the card owner displayed upon the card.

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6. An information card system comprising:

B<sup>2</sup> an information card comprising a visible photograph of a card owner displayed upon the card and a memory that stores information data, wherein the information data comprises one of image data and acoustic data, wherein the information data comprises inherent data that is embedded in the information data according to steganographic information hiding, wherein one of the information data and the inherent data comprises a reproduction of the visible photograph of the card owner displayed upon the card; and

a data processing terminal comprising input means for submitting a customized key, inherent data extracting means for extracting the inherent data with the use of the submitted customized key, and output means for outputting the extracted inherent data.

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